

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL
 SECURITY INFORMATION
 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
 INFORMATION FROM
 FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT

50X1-HUM

CD NO.

COUNTRY Bulgaria
 SUBJECT Economic - Construction projects

DATE OF
 INFORMATION 1951 - 1952

HOW
 PUBLISHED Daily newspapers

DATE DIST. 14 Jul 1952

WHERE
 PUBLISHED Sofia

NO. OF PAGES 7

DATE
 PUBLISHED 24 Dec 1951 - 27 Jan 1952

LANGUAGE Bulgarian

SUPPLEMENT TO
 REPORT NO.

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE
 OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF ESPIONAGE ACT NO
 U. S. C. 31 AND 32, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION
 OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PRO-
 HIBITED BY LAW. REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

PLANS FOR LARGE SOFIA CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

This report consists of a number of articles discussing the 7.7-billion-leva construction projects planned for the new center of Sofia. It would seem that the Bulgarians, with the help of Soviet technical advisers, are undertaking large-scale construction projects which will presumably require large quantities of building materials and manpower.

50X1-HUM

WILL TRANSFORM CITY CENTER -- Sofia, Vecherni Novini, 24 Dec 51

During the last quarter of 1948, the former "Gradoustroystvo" (City Planning) Office of the Sofia City Council, with the valuable assistance of the Soviet architects Prof N. F. Polyakov and Naumov, established the basic general lines along which the transformation of the center of Sofia was to be carried out.

The main idea is that the city center of a socialist city is a system of harmonious and organized open spaces, places in which the political and social life of all the city's inhabitants is concentrated. The organizational nucleus of this center is the main city square, in which the citizens assemble for national celebrations and great events to meet their leaders and heroes.

During 1951, the Sofia Municipal People's Soviet and the other departments have been engaged in the construction of new housing, and as a result of this activity 1,200 housing units will be completed in the capital by the end of the year.

The drawing up of the plan for building the center of Sofia was assigned to the Architecture Office of the Sofia Municipal People's Soviet, which did the necessary study and planning through the bureau specially set up in the "Sofpro" (Sofia Planning) Organization.

- 1 -

CLASSIFICATION		CONFIDENTIAL		DISTRIBUTION									
STATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NAVY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NSRB									
ARMY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FBI									

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

Following the instructions of Vulko Chervenkov on the construction and architectural pattern of the center of the city, the studies were expanded to take in a larger area with a radius of one kilometer around the center shown on the 1:2000 plan.

The plan aims at making the following clear:

1. The future lay-out of the city communications network.

In comparison with the plan showing the present situation, the new plan shows the simplification achieved with a clear and distinct radial circular system, very much like the one that has been fixed for Moscow.

2. The location of a communications center (node), the main city square ("9 Septemvri"), and the other open spaces:

One of the city's two most important boulevards, "Georgi Dimitrov," must be widened from "Zhdanov" Street to "Stamboliyski" Boulevard to make it a communications node. The other main boulevard, "Stalin," which with "Georgi Dimitrov" Boulevard forms the city's north-south axis, runs into this section, as well as "Stamboliyski" Boulevard and "Zhdanov" Street from the western side of the city. When these last two arteries are widened at the ends, they will be joined with "Georgi Dimitrov" Boulevard.

The boulevards leading from the northeast and southeast, and serving as prolongations of the Plovdiv and Botevgrad highways, form a junction in the center in the area between the headquarters of the CC of the BCP (Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party) and the Building of the Soviets, and from there run into the widened stretch of "Georgi Dimitrov" Boulevard.

The main city square is clearly shown as lying on the second important axis of the city, the east-west axis. The space between the headquarters of the CC of the BCP and the Building of the Soviets provides a satisfactory connection between the communications node and the main city square.

3. From the studies made it was determined that the streetcar tracks should be removed from the center of the city. They must converge on points lying as near the center as possible without crossing it in any direction. An exception is made for the north-south line, which must remain as it is for some time.

The 1:1000 plan shows the construction work in the center. It names and gives the dimensions of the future buildings and shows their locations.

The sites and the dimensions of the squares and boulevards and, in general, the areas forming the center of Sofia, are fixed.

The main city square is situated as indicated above, on the east-west axis, between the inner ring and "Ruski" Boulevard.

On the east and south, the square is enclosed by the landscaped area of the Municipal Park and parts of the park around the Council of Ministers Building and the landscaped areas lying between "Ruski" Boulevard and "Moskovska" Street.

The mausoleum of G. Dimitrov stands here, and the headquarters of the CC of the BCP is being erected here.

The new building of the Council of Ministers will be erected on "Moskovska" Street facing the mausoleum of G. Dimitrov.

- 2 -

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

After the old building of the Council of Ministers is torn down, the State Opera House will be erected on the eastern side of the square.

The layout of "Moskovska" Street will remain as is for the most part.

The space between the Congress Hall of the headquarters of the CC of the BCP and the Building of the Soviets is enclosed on both sides (north and south) by the buildings of the Ministry of Heavy Industry and the Ministry of Electrification.

The widening of the section of "Georgi Dimitrov" Boulevard between "Zhdanov" Street and "Stamboliyski" Boulevard is the new element in the approved plan and is what distinguishes it from the one previously drawn up. The widened section will be about 480 meters long and 74 meters wide.

This makes it possible for "Georgi Dimitrov" Boulevard to run directly into "Stalin" Boulevard in such a way that traffic will flow along the north-south axis with no interruption.

On the west side of the widened section, opposite the Building of the CC of the BCP, the Building of the Soviets (okrug, okoliya, and municipal, will be erected.

The central unit of the Building of the Soviets will be a 14- to 16-story building, which in its dimensions and height will be one of the dominant structures of the city.

The eastern side will be rounded out with the buildings of the new hotel and the Central Department Store.

At the corner of "Ekzarkh Yosif" Street and "Georgi Dimitrov" Boulevard, where part of the ancient inner fortress wall of Serdica was discovered, an administrative building will be erected.

The "Sveta Nedelya" (Holy Sunday) Church on "Lenin" Square will be torn down.

The need to improve the traffic facilities on the widened section of "Georgi Dimitrov" Boulevard and to provide a suitable intersection with "Zhdanov" Street made it evident that the Black Mosque must be removed, and this has been made part of the approved plan.

"Lenin" Square in its present form and dimensions is being discarded. Probably the name of V. I. Lenin will be given to the new open space between the Building of the Soviets and the Congress Hall of the headquarters of the CC of the BCP. In the north part of this area, in front of the Building of the Soviets, the Statue of G. Dimitrov will be erected, and in the south part, in front of the Congress Hall of the headquarters of the CC of the BCP, the statue of Lenin will be erected.

Together with the construction of buildings, the plan provides for the construction of many facilities such as the following:

1. Restoration of the old sewage and water-supply systems and laying of new ones
2. Restoration of old and laying of new electric, telephone, and other cables

- 3 -

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

CONFIDENTIAL

3. Installation of central heating pipelines
4. Filling and grading of land
5. Restoration of old and laying of new pavements and sidewalks
6. Modernization of the street lighting system
7. Planting of grass and trees.

The total cost of the measures for the construction and layout of the center of Sofia, together with the building indicated in the decree of the Council of Ministers, according to preliminary and approximate calculations, will amount to 7,700,000,000 leva.

According to the resolution of 22 November 1951, the CC of the BCP, the Sofia Party Committee and the Sofia Municipal People's Soviet of Workers' Deputies are obligated to see that the citizens are familiarized with the provisions of the decree for the reconstruction of the center, to eliminate promptly the weak personnel among construction workers, and to study and apply the experience of the builders of Dimitrograd.

The resolution of the CC of the BCP on the work of the Sofia Party Committee also requires that the situation of the construction workers be looked into immediately and that extensive measures be taken to increase their skill. The committee must assure the entry of new workers into the construction field and must make sure that Soviet acceleration methods in masonry, painting, etc., are mastered by Bulgarian construction workers en masse. The turnover of labor which has existed up to now among construction workers and the erroneous idea which some of them have that they should not work fast because they would then be out of work must be corrected.

PREPARATIONS FOR SOFIA CONSTRUCTION UNDER WAY -- Sofia, Vecherni Novini, 5, 7 Jan 52

At yesterday's session of the Executive Committee of the Sofia Municipal People's Soviet of Workers' Deputies, the vice-chairman of the committee, Dimitur Popov, reported on the implementation of the decree of the Council of Ministers on the construction of the center of Sofia.

The preparations for starting the construction work will be completed by 1 September 1952. The vertical planning will have been completed by that time. The level of the land will have been computed and determined, and the transfer of the underground installations (cables, sewers, etc.), the changes in the paving of the streets, the widening and the clearing of boulevards, the removal of streetcar tracks, etc., will have been done. The plans for the new buildings will also be definitely completed. With all this preparatory work completed, on 1 September 1952 the construction organization can move in with its equipment and personnel and begin intensive construction work immediately.

The work on vertical planning is already under way. Thorough geological study of the land, in connection with the construction of large buildings, has already started. At present, the land on which the Building of the Soviets and the new hotel are to be erected is being studied thoroughly.

The drawings have been made for the removal of the streetcar tracks in part, particularly those passing through the center of town.

- 4 -

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

CONFIDENTIAL

In connection with the preparation of plans for the new large buildings which are to be erected in the center of Sofia, an advisory commission has been formed, headed by Boris Markov, Chief Architect of the Republic.

On 3 January 1952, the Architecture Section of the Ministry of Communal Economy and Public Works, and the architectural section of the Sofia Society of the Scientific and Technical Union, held a meeting at the Cultural Workers' Club, at which Markov read a report on the construction of the center of Sofia.

Al. Obretenov, professor and architect, made an introductory speech on the historic decree of the Council of Ministers of 20 November 1951.

It was proposed that 15 to 20 outstanding Soviet architects be invited to pay a visit to the Bulgarian architects in April or May, so that their rich experience may be utilized and their advice sought.

After Markov's report, many questions were raised. Architect P. Kantardzhiev, Prof L. Tonev, Architect Radoslavov, Architect B. Shangov, and Engineer Karez'ozov said something on the organization of the work. Architect P. Tashev made various suggestions.

SOFIA BUILDING PROJECTS -- Sofia, Rabotnichesko Delo, 27 Jan 52

The Building of the Soviets will most probably be 300 meters long and 14 to 16 stories high. "Georgi Dimitrov" Boulevard, which will stretch alongside the Building of the Soviets, will be about 74 meters wide on a 480-meter stretch from "Zhdanov" Street to "Stamboliyski" Boulevard. This widening of the boulevard will permit it to enter "Stalin" Boulevard directly. To widen the section, the mosque will have to be torn down; a park with lanes will be laid out where the mosque stood. The central Mineral Bathhouse will be clearly seen, and against it will rise the "Gastronom" Building (the present covered market).

The plan is elaborated in such a way that the entire center of the capital will be surrounded by green patches.

The space from the Congress Hall of the headquarters of the CC of the BCP to the Building of the Soviets, between the Central Department Store and the hotel, will be called "Lenin" Square. On two sides of this square will be (on the north) the Ministry of Heavy Industry and (on the south) the Ministry of Electrification. "Dondukov" and "Ruski" boulevards, which are continuations of Botevgrad and Plovdiv highways, will run into "Lenin" Square. The facade of the Ministry of Heavy Industry will stretch from the Central Department Store to the State Planning Commission Building. On the opposite side will be the facade of the Ministry of Electrification. It starts from the hotel and reaches and encircles a part of "Lege" Street. "Tsar Kaloyan" Street will terminate at the new "Lenin" Square and the small, old "Sveti Georgi" Church will be situated in the green inner yard, enclosed by the buildings of the Ministry of Electrification and the hotel.

The "9 Septemvri" Main Square will be linked with the communications center through the new "Lenin" Square.

The present building of the Council of Ministers will be torn down. The new imposing building of the Council of Ministers will be situated on the north side of "Moskovska" Street at the site of the Sofia Main Office of the Ministry of Interior and the Academy of Music.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

The new State Opera House will be opposite the central facade of the Building of the CC of the BCP.

Provisions have been made for remodeling the "Bulgariya" Hotel (the old building overlooking the square). A statue of Stalin will be erected on "9 September" Square; a statue of Lenin will stand in front of the Congress Hall of the headquarters of the CC of the BCP; and the Georgi Dimitrov monument will stand in front of the Building of the Soviets.

Along "Dondukov," "Stamboliyski," "Stalin," and "Georgi Dimitrov" boulevards and "Bacho Kiro," "Budapest," and other streets will be erected modern and hygienic apartment houses for the working people of the capital.

The work to clean up the center of capital must begin on 15 February 1952 so that the construction of the buildings of the Ministry of Heavy Industry, the Ministry of Electrification, the Central Department Store, the Building of the Soviets, and the hotel can begin on 1 September 1952. The above buildings must be completed not later than 31 December 1954.

Successful execution of this construction plan for the socialist building of the Bulgarian capital will be a new expression of the creative peaceful labor of the Bulgarian people.

ANNOUNCES SALE OF CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL -- Sofia, Otechestven Front, 27 Jan 52

In Announcement No 310, the supply section of the Executive Committee of the Sofia Municipal People's Soviet announces the sale of construction material acquired from torn-down buildings on the terrain where the new construction projects of the Sofia center are being erected.

ERECT APARTMENT HOUSES IN SOFIA -- Sofia, Vecherni Novini, 7 Jan 52

On Aleksandur Stamboliyski Boulevard, between "Osogovo" and "Odrin" streets, five new eight-story apartment houses have been erected.

Under the direction of the Soviet specialist Mikhin, prefabricated parts were used for the first time. These prefabricated parts were moved into place on the prepared reinforced-concrete structure with the enormous tower crane. Instead of bricks, the new construction material "studizol" (cold insulation), which is $2\frac{1}{2}$ times lighter than bricks and has better insulation qualities, was used in constructing the buildings. Construction with prefabricated parts and use of "studizol" blocks made it possible to complete the five apartment houses in a short time and reduce the construction costs about 10.5 percent.

In 1952, the Sofia Municipal People's Soviet of Workers' Deputies will increase the allocations for housing construction 20 percent over those for 1951.

Five enormous new apartment houses will be completed by the end of 1952 on "Rakovski" Street, between "Slaveykov" Square and "Levski" and "Gurko" streets, and on "Levski" and "Stefan Karadzha" streets.

This year, the Sofia Municipal People's Soviet will take extensive measures for communal construction in Sofia. The plan which the "Inzhstroy" (Engineering-Construction) Economic Enterprise at the Sofia Municipal People's Soviet has drawn up for communal construction provides during 1952 for the laying of tens of thousands of linear meters of new curbstones, more than 100,000 square meters of pavement, street surfacing, etc.

- 6 -

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

The following paving and surfacing is planned: Stalin Rayon -- 23,000 square meters of basalt slabs for sidewalks, 1,792 square meters of macadam surface, and 4,000 square meters of pavement; Kolarov Rayon -- 2,200 square meters of smooth cobblestones; Dimitrov Rayon -- 1,904 linear meters of curbstones, 2,700 square meters of sidewalks, 25,136 square meters of macadam surface, 27,785 square meters of pavement, and 6,490 square meters of smooth cobblestones; Blagoev Rayon -- 3,176 linear meters of curbstones, 3,614 square meters of sidewalks, 25,996 square meters of macadam surface, 21,196 square meters of pavement, and 2,915 square meters of smooth cobblestones; Chervenkov Rayon -- 5,195 linear meters of curbstones, 4,362 square meters of sidewalks, 29,854 square meters of macadam surface, 31,888 square meters of pavement, and 2,100 square meters of smooth cobblestones; Sixth Rayon -- 2,731 linear meters of curbstones, 7,455 square meters of sidewalks, 14,716 square meters of macadam surface, 20,312 square meters of pavement, and 2,924 square meters of smooth cobblestones.

- E N D -

- 7 -

CONFIDENTIAL